

STUDIES ON THE CHRYSOMELIDAE
(COLEOPTERA) OF THE BAJA CALIFORNIA
PENINSULA: A NEW SPECIES OF *ORTHALTICA*
(ALTICINAE), WITH NOTES ON THE GENUS IN
BAJA CALIFORNIA

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Abstract.—*Orthaltica capensis* NEW SPECIES is described from the Cape Region of Baja California Sur, Mexico. Notes on the hosts and distribution for *Orthaltica* Crotch species in Baja California are presented.

Key Words.—*Orthaltica, capensis*, Baja California Peninsula, Mexico, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae

Species of *Orthaltica* Crotch have been described from the United States, Africa and Asia (Seeno & Wilcox 1982). The four species known from North America were reviewed by Scherer (1974). Among the Alticinae the genus *Orthaltica* is unique in lacking an extensor apodeme (Maulik Organ, "spring mechanism") in the metafemora. All host records for the four North American species are from species of *Rhus* (Anacardiaceae).

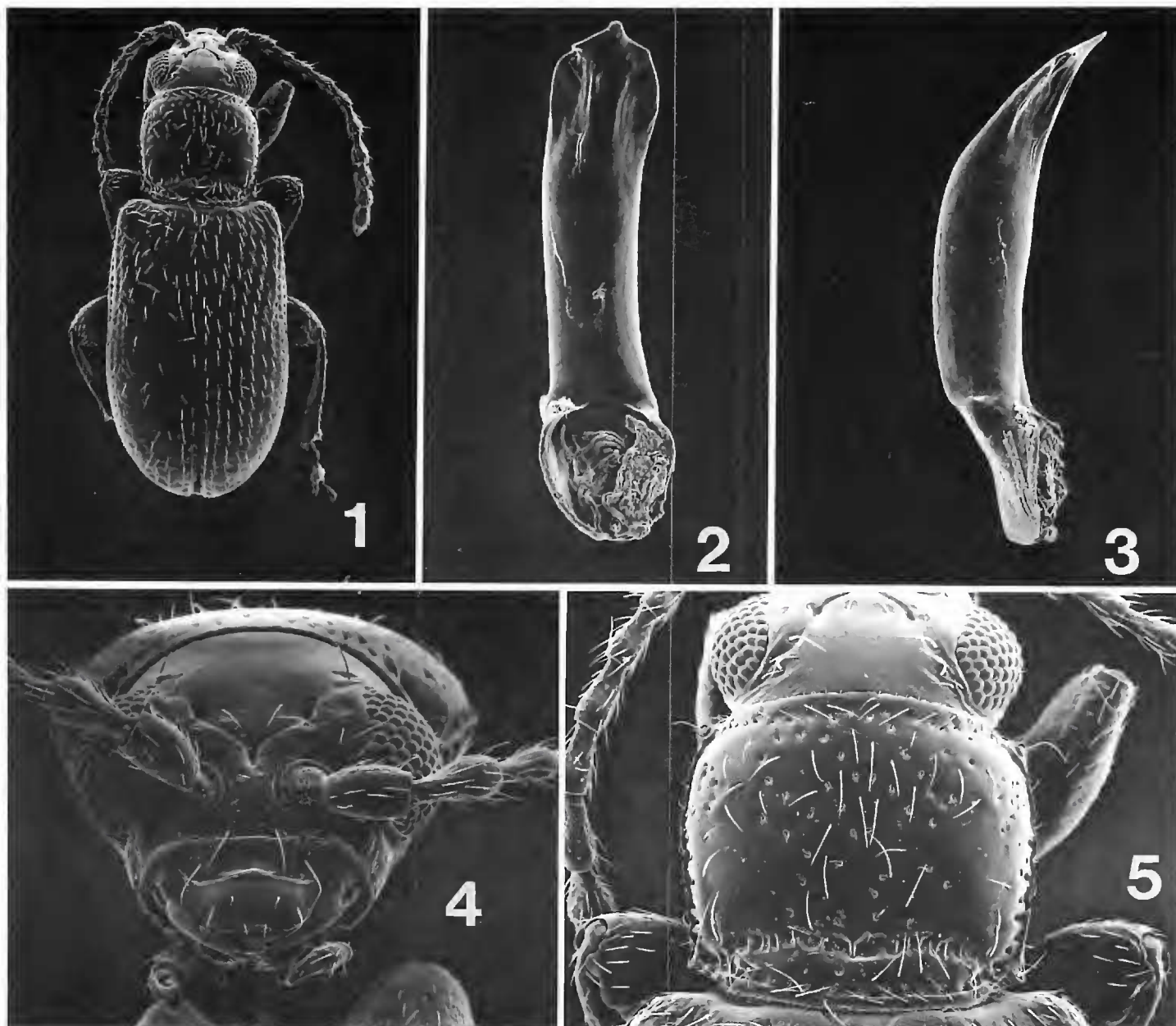
On a recent trip to Baja California, we collected *Orthaltica recticollis* (LeConte) in the northern half of the Baja California peninsula, a species previously known only from the United States. We also discovered an undescribed *Orthaltica* in the southern end of the peninsula.

Specimen Depositories.—The following abbreviations refer to: AJGC—Arthur J. Gilbert collection, CAS—California Academy of Sciences, CDFA—California Dept. of Food & Agriculture, TAMU—Texas A&M University, UCRC—University of California, Riverside.

ORTHALTICA CAPENSIS ANDREWS & GILBERT, NEW SPECIES

Types. HOLOTYPE (male) (CAS #16835) AND ALLOTYPE (female): MEXICO. BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR: 20.3 km (12.2 mi) SE of San Pedrito near Rancho Saucito, 8 Oct 1981, F. Andrews & D. Faulkner. Type and Allotype deposited in the California Academy of Sciences. PARATYPES (46)—Same data as holotype (17) [CDFA]; 23.2 km (14 mi) N of Cabo San Lucas, 9 Sep 1988, A. J. Gilbert (1) [AJGC]; 2.3 km (1.4 mi) W of El Aguaje, 17 Sep 1988, on *Cryptocarpus edulis* (Brandege) Stanley, E. G. Riley (12) [TAMU]; 7.1 km (4.3 mi) W of hwy 1 on Ramal a El Rosario, 6–7 Sep 1988, E. G. Riley (6) [TAMU]; 11.9 km (7.2 mi) W on Ramal Naranjos Road, 15 Sep 1988, A. J. Gilbert, on *Cryptocarpus edulis* (3) [AJGC]; Ramal Naranjos Road, 0.6 km (0.1 mi) W highway 1, 198 m (650 ft), 1 Sep 1990, F. Andrews, T. Eichlin & A. Gilbert (2) [CDFA]; 15.2 km (9.2

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Figures 1–5. *Orthaltica capensis* Andrews & Gilbert. Figure 1. Dorsal habitus. Figure 2. Male aedeagus, ventral view. Figure 3. Male aedeagus, lateral view. Figure 4. Head, anterior view. Figure 5. Pronotum, male, dorsal view.

mi) W of San Ignacio, 23 Sep 1981, D. Faulkner & F. Andrews (2) [CDFA]; San Felipe, 15.8 km (9.5 mi) NW of San Jose del Cabo, 9 Sep 1988, E. G. Riley (1) [TAMU].

Description.—Male (holotype). Length 1.68 mm; width 0.68 mm. Testaceous, elytra (except suture), legs slightly lighter than other body parts. Head smooth, shining, several setose punctures dorsal to eyes; frontal tubercles smooth, shining; frontal suture distinct, “V” shaped, deep between frontal tubercles, terminating toward vertex in pit on each side at about center of eyes (Fig. 4); distinct transverse groove bearing 2 large setae separates frons from clypeus; clypeus distinct; labrum elongate, anteriorly biemarginate; antennae separated by distance subequal to width of antennal socket; antennae extending beyond humerus. Segments 7–11 enlarged; eyes entire; interocular width approximately $3.0\times$ width of eye (on a line drawn through center of eyes when viewed head on). Pronotum transverse, $1.17\times$ wider than long (width measured at the widest portion—apical one-third); anterior angles produced, bearing coarse seta; pubescent; coarse, deep irregular punctation with 2 large, glabrous, semicircular areas at each side anterior to transverse suture; transverse suture broad, irregularly defined; lateral margins shallowly crenulate (not serrate) (Fig. 5). Scutellum small with few setiferous punctures. Elytra with 9 regular rows of deep punctures (not including scutellar, lateral rows); humeri prominent; pubescence erect, in regular rows (Fig. 1). Venter with scattered setiferous punctures; procoxal cavity closed; mesocoxae, metacoxae widely separated; last abdominal sternum biemarginate, forming distinct, inwardly appressed, rectangular lobe. Legs all of approximate equal size, shape; femora medially expanded; metafemora without extensor apodeme; tarsal claws appendiculate. Genitalia Figs. 2 and 3.

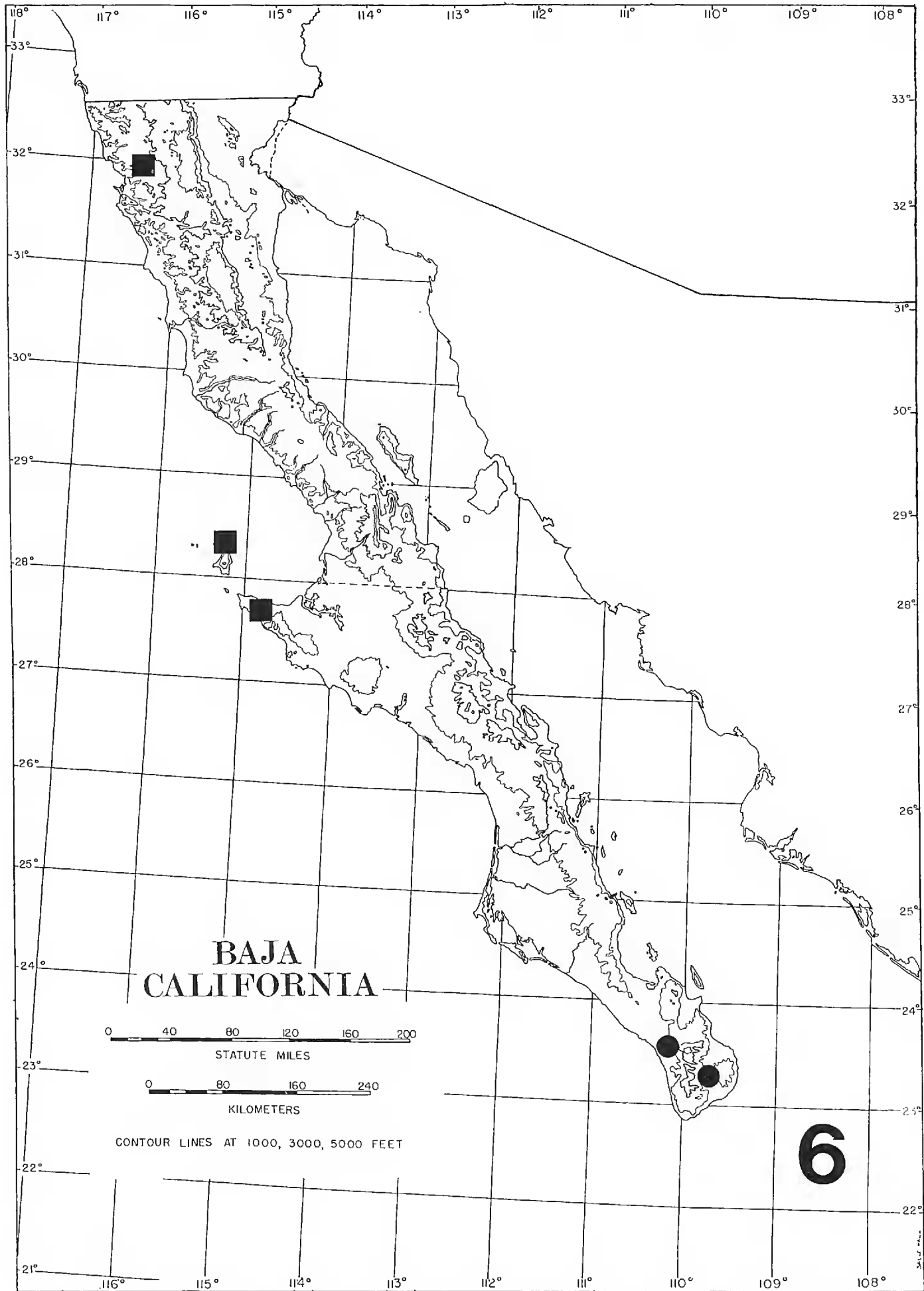


Figure 6. Known geographical distribution *Orthaltica recticollis* (■) and *O. capensis* (●) in the Baja California peninsula.

Female (allotype).—Similar to holotype, differing in the following characters: size slightly larger (length 1.88 mm; width 0.76 mm; antennae slightly shorter; last abdominal sternum entire.

Variation.—Male: length 1.52–1.76 mm; width at elytral humeri 0.60–0.72 mm. Female: length 1.68–2.00 mm; width 0.64–0.80 mm.

Diagnosis.—*Orthaltica capensis* NEW SPECIES can be distinguished from all other described Nearctic species of *Orthaltica* by the erect elytral setation, the smooth asetose areas on the pronotum, the form of the frontal suture, the unique shape of the male aedeagus, and geographical isolation in the southern end (Cape Region) of Baja California (Fig. 6). From *O. recticollis* (LeConte), the only other species known from the Baja California peninsula, *O. capensis* can be differentiated by the above characters and by the absence of an enlarged pronotum in the male, and by its smaller size and lighter color. The aedeagus in North American *Orthaltica* is distinctly asymmetrical, but in *O. capensis* it is asymmetrical only in having a slight notch on the left side near the apex (Fig. 2, dorsal view).

Host.—The host association with *Cryptocarpus edulus* (Brandergee) is consistent with the known *Rhus* association of the other Nearctic species, in that *Cryptocarpus* is in the same family (Anacardiaceae) and is listed as its closest relative by Wiggins (1980).

Etymology.—Named for the cape region of Baja California Sur, to which it appears to be confined.

Material Examined.—See types.

Orthaltica recticollis (LeConte)

This species is known from many locations in California and Oregon. We report it from Baja California for the first time. Specimens in the California Department of Food and Agriculture Collection indicate a host association with *Rhus laurina* (Nutt.), *R. ovata* Wats. and *R. diversiloba* T. & G. This species has been collected in northern and central Baja California (Fig. 6) and from an additional species of *Rhus*.

Material Examined.—MEXICO. BAJA CALIFORNIA (Norte): 20.1 km (12.1 mi) NE of Ensenada, 25 Mar 1966, 360 m, M. E. Irwin [UCRC]; Isla Cedros, North Point, 20-21 Mar 1981, F. Andrews & D. Faulkner [CDFA]. BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR: 18.6 km (11.2 mi) SSE of Bahia Tortugas, 18 Apr 1987, on *Rhus integrifolia* (Nutt.), F. Andrews & A. Gilbert [CDFA].

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